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1980/01/06

(TRANSLATION)

Vice-Premier and Minister of National Defense

Xu Xiangqian's Speech at the Banquet in Honour

of U.S. Secretary of Defence Harold Brown

January 6, 1980

Respected Secretary Brown and Mrs. Brown, Ladies and Gentlemen

Comrades:

We are very glad that Mr. Brown, Secretary of Defence of the United States of America, and Mrs. Brown have come to China for an official visit at our invitation. On behalf of the Ministry of National Defence of the People's Republic of China and in my own name, I wish to extend warm welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Brown, and to all the other American friends on the delegation.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America a year ago marked a historic turning point in our relations. We note with pleasure that since then, and particularly since the fruitful exchange of visits between Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping and Vice-President Mondale, bilateral exchanges and cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological fields have increased daily. Mr. Secretary's visit to China provides the first opportunity for our senior leaders in the field of national defence to get acquainted with one another and exchange views on national security concerns. This will greatly help to promote our relations and strengthen our cooperation in preserving world peace and security.

The Chinese people desire peace. China wants to strengthen its defence capabilities solely for self-defence and not to threaten anyone. The Chinese people suffered enough from wars of foreign aggression and have now embarked on a historic Long March for turning China into a powerful socialist country with modern agriculture, industry, national defence and science-technology. We hope to have a long period of peaceful international environment in which to concentrate our efforts on the realization of this great national objective. The people of all the other countries, too, are opposed to wars of aggression and wish to lead a happy life in a peaceful environment in which their countries' independence and sovereignty are fully respected. But we cannot fail to see the growing turbulence and unrest in various parts of the world, particularly in the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and also in Africa and the Caribbean Sea, which are affecting and threatening the peace and stability of the world as a whole. We cannot but be deeply concerned about this. Recently the Soviet Union has flagrantly made a massive armed invasion into Afghanistan, unscrupulously interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and using tens of thousands of Soviet troops to impose military occupation on it and ruthlessly suppressing the Afghan people. This hegemonist act of the Soviet Union has aroused the people of all countries to sharp vigilance and extensive condemnation. People have come to see more